

WESTERN KANSAS WORLD

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

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As Others See Us

The following editorial appeared in the Solomon Tribune last week and is reproduced here, not for criticism but for the purpose of correction. It is also a good example of the way any town will get the worst of it as soon as it begins to knock itself:

ANENT WATER AND LIGHTS.

A special election was held at Wa-Keeney last week to decide whether or not the city should increase its bonded indebtedness \$7,000 and take up the outstanding warrants that have been issued during the past year because of the city water and light plants failing to pay operating expenses.

Wa-Keeney is a county seat town of 1,000 population, located 150 miles west of Solomon. A year ago the city put in a water and light plant at a cost of \$40,000. As is generally the case in matters of this kind, the estimates of the engineer were too low. The \$40,000 did not complete the plant and a part of the city is yet without water.

Wa-Keeney has about 140 light patrons and about 100 water patrons, including the Union Pacific Ry. Co., which pays the city \$75 per month for water. Notwithstanding the liberal patronage received by the water and light plants, the last report of the city treasurer shows that the water fund is overdrawn more than \$3,500 and that the light fund is overdrawn over \$3,100, also that many bills for material and supplies are unpaid. It was to take up this indebtedness that the people were asked to vote the \$7,000 bonds. The proposition was voted down, so the city will continue to stamp its warrants, "Not Paid for Want of Funds."

The above ought to convince anyone that Solomon can not support a water and light plant, and it is hoped that the city officers will yet face about and abandon the idea of worse than throwing away \$30,000 of the people's money.

By way of explanation our readers should know that the city of Solomon some years ago voted bonds for the purpose of installing a water and light plant but the bonds were not issued, presumably because of the opposition of the city administration. There was a change of administration recently and the matter of the bond issue has been revived. The Tribune opposes the issue, as it may rightfully do, but in this instance, it seems to us, the editor, Mr. W. L. Olson, is unfair to the people of his home town and unjust to Wa-Keeney, perhaps unwittingly. In the first place for first correction let us inform the Tribune that Wa-Keeney did not propose to issue bonds in the sum of \$7,000 because our water and light plants were not paying running expenses. The plants were more than paying operating expenses. The people knew this and defeated the issue. It is only fair to say, however, that the excess revenue was not sufficient to extend the systems as fast as desired; nor was it sufficient to build two miles of first class power line and install a second pump at a cost of \$2,500 all in one year; nor was it sufficient to build street and alley crossings by the mile as Wa-Keeney did last year. There is a vast difference between "operating expenses" on the one hand, and construction, extension, equipment, and other public improvements on the other.

Second—The engineer was not consulted as to the amount of the bond issue. His estimates were not too low. His task was to design water and light plants at a cost within the limit of the bond issue and to expend the money in such manner as would do the most good to the greatest number of people, and he succeeded to a surprising degree. The plants he designed were completed within his estimates and within the limits of the bond issue. In fact, Wa-Keeney got more and better equipment for its \$40,000 than some other towns have since secured for nearly double the sum. Contractors made extra favorable bids because they realized that the funds were limited. An overflowing treasury is not always an unmixed blessing. Limited funds have a tendency to encourage economy, as we all know by experience, and very properly so.

Wa-Keeney has a trifle less than 900 and it is true that a part of these people are still without city water or light, as a matter of choice, although in reach of both and abundantly able to afford both. A few others are not within reach of the water and light systems but undoubtedly will be in the near future. The Tribune might have said in all truth and candor that three-fourths of the town site is not built up and probably never will be. One-half of it is in pastures and cultivated fields. It is true that there are a few scattered houses so far out from the built-up part of the town that the occupants do not ask or expect connection with the water and light systems.

The Tribune is about right as to the total number of water and light

patrons of the Wa-Keeney systems but gets its wires crossed in the division of them. There are more water patrons than light patrons and it is a fact that except for the city water works there would have been great privations, hardship and suffering probably, among the people during the late protracted drouth. While farmers and farm stock were actually suffering for water in many places, the fortunate people of Wa-Keeney had an abundant supply of the very best quality.

The Wa-Keeney financial report from which the Tribune quotes was not a report by the city treasurer, and the Tribune failed to say that this same report shows cash on hand to the amount of about \$2,500.

In our humble opinion the people of Solomon can support a water and light plant and ought to be able to get a good one for \$30,000, if they desire to do so. But that is none of our business. We are simply standing up for our home town as every good citizen ought to do.

Kansas City Market Report

Kansas City Stock Yards, July 25, 1911.

Another sprightly cattle market was enjoyed here today, in spite of the fact that the run was of generous proportions, 14,000 head, including 1,700 calves. Prices were higher in some cases, and at least steady on everything. Black yearlings from Nebraska brought \$7.25 today, and other yearlings reached \$7.10. These last were from the same lot that brought \$7.00 yesterday, when the salesman thought he had done something great. Bullish sentiment is rife in the cattle trade, and the thought of the trade generally was voiced by J. Ogden Armour a few days ago when he predicted that before long no cattle or beef products would be exported from this country, that we would need the entire output at home. He even went farther, and said that before many years we would be importing cattle from South America. The district below the quarantine line is said to contain few fat cattle. Anyway, very few quarantine cattle are moving to market. Only 34 loads of that class arrived here today, and the supply for the past ten days has been less than one-third the supply same time last year. Quarantine steers sell at \$4.10 to \$5.85 here this week, grass cows from the south at \$3.75 to \$4.90, veals \$7.00. Heavy steers did not come up to expectations today, barely reaching last week's high figure, \$6.85. Prime quality would probably reach \$7.00. Killer's hooks are bare, and they cannot conceal the fact when runs are light, as they have been for two weeks. Pasture steers from a territory sell this week at \$4.60 to \$6.15, cows up to \$5.00, canners \$3.00 to \$3.60, bulls \$3.00 to \$5.25, stock steers \$3.25 to \$4.50, feeders \$4.00 to \$5.25.

Hog receipts are falling below estimates this week, meagre as are the latter, and prices are stronger. Run today is barely 12,000 head, market 5 to 10 higher, top \$6.70, bulk \$6.40 to \$6.65. Light weights are offered more freely than other kinds, and average quality of the same is lower, hence a wider spread in prices in that class, \$6.35 to \$6.65 today. Pigs are poor sellers, especially little pigs. Some 112 lb. pigs brought \$6.00, but weights under that sell at \$5.50 and downwards to \$4.75. Heavy hogs are scarce, and bring top prices, though medium hogs of good quality also bring top figures.

Lambs are popular this week, prices 10 to 15 higher, top \$7.25. Colorado spring lambs reached the top, best natives \$7.00, and Arizonas at \$7.10 today. Mutton sheep are a little lower this week, because of the arrival of too much range stuff at Chicago, from the northwest. Wethers are worth \$4.00 to \$4.25, ewes \$3.25 to \$3.75, stock stuff \$2.50 to \$3.25. Bulk of the arrivals is natives with Arizona and Colorado contributing lightly, nothing to speak of from Utah yet.

J. A. Rickart,

Market Correspondent.

Special Notice

Exchanges our specialties; satisfactory exchanges made for farms, ranches, merchandise stocks, income properties, live stock etc. Write for our descriptive listing blank.

Holcomb—Tripiett Realty Co., Garnett, Kans.

Dr. M. J. Brown, Specialist,

of Salina, will be at the American House, Tuesday, August 8th, Ellis, August 9th, prepared to treat the medical and surgical diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, and glasses scientifically fitted.

Our Reply to the Reporter's Reformer.

It is just a little amusing to watch the inconsistent side-stepping of the Reporter in its "Few Little Facts" this week. If Mr. English would just get down to business people might know what he is trying to drive at, but he tried to side-step every fact which appeared in last week's World. As far as we are concerned, as we stated before, this controversy could drop, but we will not drop it until the Reporter is ready.

Mr. English still lays considerable stress on the graft business and again we say to Brother English he is welcome to unearth anything along this line that he is able to find, and we don't feel alarmed in the least when he intimates that it is to hang as a club over our head if we don't behave and let the municipal affairs of the city alone. It's awfully nice of Mr. English to jump in and try to lick the whole bunch for the city council, the police court and everything else; most strangers are not so kind and liberal.

He poked his long nose into our personal business and his intense interest in the welfare of Wa-Keeney is as pathetic as it is ridiculous and the fellows he is doing it for are laughing in their sleeves at his gullibility. It's a pity he can't see it. He further intimates that we are very desirous of being considered "it" and in this matter if it is possible Mr. English is a greater ass than in any other statement he has made. We are very grateful to the people for all of the support we have ever received and our "government job" seems to be the bone of contention but we have no one but a very few personal friends to thank for that and are under no obligation to the city, the city council, the police court, or the Reporter for landing it as bitter as it was for some to swallow.

We are just a little sorry that Mr. English from a "moral" standpoint is afraid of us. He does not just exactly look as though he would become contaminated easily and he may be sprouting those angelic affairs people call wings, but really there is no particular evidence of it; but still it pays a stranger to be mighty careful. But in shunning us he wants to keep his eyes open that he don't get into anything worse.

This is all we have time for, so if our enthusiastic reformer is through, we will bid him a sad but kindly farewell.

The Old Settler

When the weather is hot and the river is dry, and the corn and the 'taters are yellow and sear, some windy old dub always raises the cry and says: "Oh, this isn't a very dry year. Now, back in the summer of Umpty-steen we shore had a drouth that would open your eyes; for days and for weeks and for months I have seen hot weather with never a cloud in skies. That there was the year when the rattlesnakes died beneath the hot rays of the merciless sun. Full many a one have I et. ready fried, as he lay in the pathway deliciously done. They say that this dry spell beats anything yet, and quote you the fingers to prove it is true; but I claim the weather is soggy and wet compared with the summer of Umpty-two. That season I broke forty acres of sod with a pair of dun mules that couldn't be beat, but I ruined 'em both jest be keeping 'em shod, for their shoes got so hot that it roasted their feet. Don't talk of the rivers and ponds bein' low; why, back in the summer of Umpty-four the Baptis' was holding a camp meetin' show and the people came for'ard each night by the score. But when it was ended a fact came to light that made them evangelists open their eyes; they found themselves in a most sorrowful plight—there wasn't no water for them to baptize. Then a young circuit rider of Wesleyan creed, who heard how them converts was left in the lurch, made a forty-mile journey down there on his steed and roped 'em all into the Methodist church. No need to tell me that the season is hot, I know what I know and I've seen; why, it's pleasant compared to the weather we got back there in the summer of Umpty-steen. — Ponca City (Okla.) Gazette.

George Galloway of Wa-Keeney has been here several days visiting his daughter, Mrs. C. C. Whitton. George has met many old time friends with whom he became acquainted years ago in Millbrook where he conducted a hardware store.—Hill City Republican.

Seed Wheat Problem

Some seem to think there should be some steps taken by the county to provide seed wheat. There is an immense amount of land in the county that will be in fine condition for seeding without any additional work but it is claimed that the county cannot do anything in the way of providing seed wheat with out special authority from the legislature. Now, we have a plan we would like to submit. There are jack rabbits enough to eat up all the wheat that could be shown, anyhow, and why would it not be a good plan to place a bounty of 5 cents a head on rabbits? Then a man could soon earn enough to seed several acres of ground to wheat and at the same time remove the rabbits that would soon eat his wheat up if they are not destroyed. This is a business proposition. Every acre of ground that can should be sown to wheat. We are also facing a serious proposition with the jack rabbits. Let us kill two birds with one stone, destroy the rabbits and buy seed wheat.—Scott City News Chronicle.

WORK FOR SEED WHEAT

Up in Thomas county there has been some talk of asking the county commissioners to furnish seed wheat to those who are unable to buy and allowing the farmers to give a mortgage on their crop in payment for the seed. This, you remember, is the same proposition as was submitted to the commissioners of this county a short time ago. N. A. Turner, of the Colby Tribune, is not in favor of the project, but suggests one which sounds mighty feasible to us. He says: "We are not unmindful of the great need of seed wheat which confronts the farmers of the county but we hardly believe this to be the best method to procure it. There would be a lot of dissatisfaction over such an arrangement. Some sections of the county would claim they were discriminated against, even with the possible management. It occurs to us that perhaps the various townships might better handle the matter by giving every farmer who needed seed and he could not buy it a few days work on the roads and have the money earned settled with its equivalent in seed wheat. This would enable him to pay for his seed when he procured it and at the same time greatly benefit the roads of the county."—Gove Gazette.

We notice that some of the Hoxie people have been down to Topeka trying to get the Governor to call a special session to get seed wheat, and in failing in that they are trying to get the railroad company to give them help. This is very unfortunate, for already some of the eastern papers are saying, it is the same old cry, from Western Kansas, and also say that two years ago all the papers were calling attention to the great prosperity of this part of the State and that if we had not spent our money for autos, and the like that we did not need, we would have had plenty to buy our own seed. There is plenty of money in any and all of these Western counties to furnish all the seed wheat needed. We call especially attention to Decatur county as they are taking care of their own seed proposition.

\$\$\$ Are Worth Saving

Do you know I have a full stock of Children's, Ladies' and Men's Work and Dress Shoes which I am selling out at actual manufacturers' cost?

I save you 50c to \$1.00 on any kind of a shoe

Don't fail to look them over—they are the famous Sunflower Brand.

H. F. OSTERKAMP

Weather Report

Maximum and minimum temperature according to the government thermometer at Wa-Keeney for the week ending Wednesday noon.

	MAX.	MIN.
Thursday.....	88.....	64.....
Friday.....	92.....	63.....
Saturday.....	90.....	68.....
Sunday.....	84.....	64.....
Monday.....	74.....	53.....
Tuesday.....	88.....	51.....
Wednesday.....	90.....	61.....

The rainfall last Saturday evening amounted to 1.97 inches, the heaviest rain for several years, and nearly three-fourths of the total fell in the first twenty minutes of the storm by accurate time and measurement.

Camp Meeting

The annual camp meeting of the Central Kansas Holiness association will hold their camp August 3 to 13, three miles east of Ogallah. Free transportation to and from the ground except Sunday. Boarding house on the ground, meals half price to preachers and their families; a fine twenty-room house on the ground; plenty of tents and cots, bedding, etc.

Rev. Dave Hill of Lancaster, Ohio, will have charge of the preaching assisted by local help. This camp is promising to be a great blessing. All are invited.

For further information write Rev. Nixon, Prairie View, or E. E. Gundel, Oakley, Kan.

Build Ponds

In order to encourage the storage of water that annually runs off during the flood season, it being a general belief that a wide spread system of storage would create a difference in climate, prevent drouths, add to fertility of farms, prepare the way for sub and surface irrigation act beneficially in many ways, the last legislature passed a law exempting from taxation to the amount of one hundred to three hundred dollars per quarter section where such ponds or storage reservoirs are built.

A pond must store an acre foot of water to permit the exemption of one hundred dollars. The plans and measurements are to be made by the engineer or surveyor. I am prepared to run the levels, make estimate for any who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity, and aside from personal reasons I hope a goodly number will take advantage of this and help make Trego county wet if that will do it.

HUDSON HARLAN,

County Surveyor.

Smoked meats at Baker's.

State Convention "On Wheels"

This year, in May, 2,531 registered delegates were in attendance at the State Sunday School convention in Topeka. It is utterly impossible to entertain a meeting of such proportions in the western portion of Kansas. Year after year the western delegates go only at great expense to the larger cities of eastern Kansas. Many more would go but for the cost involved. Since the mountain cannot well go to Mahomet, Mahomet will go to the mountain. The state officers have arranged to carry the best features of the Topeka convention to the great southwest—to Garden City, August 7, 8 and 9, 1911.

Wm. A. Brown of Chicago, representing the International Sunday School Association, will be the chief lecturer throughout. Prof. L. L. Henry of the firm of Tullar & Meredith, New York, will direct the music. Additional talent contemplated, R. P. Shepherd, St. Louis, M. A. Honline, Dayton, and Mrs. J. A. Walker, Denver, not to mention the wealth of first class Kansas talent besides. Every pastor and superintendent is a delegate ex-officio. Each Sunday School in this county is requested to send at least two additional delegates. Entertainment, fifty cents for lodging and breakfast. Additional meals at popular prices. For programs and further information address The Kansas Sunday School Association, Abilene, Kansas, J. H. Engle, General Secretary.

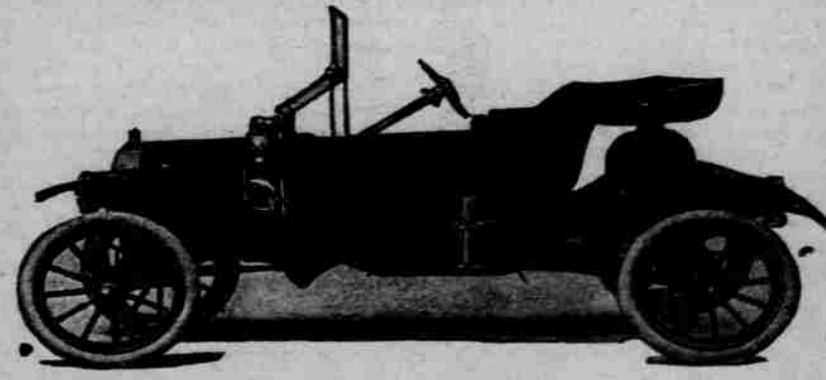
Dog Guarded His Master's Corpse

Winona, Kans., July 25.—A man by the name of Jaspersen, living north of Winona, in Thomas county, was found dead in his pasture Sunday morning. He had been hearing cattle in the early part of the day and as he had been feeling poorly for several days, although he never had been sick a day before in all his 70 years of life, his son, when he returned from Sunday school and not finding his father at the house, went in search of him. The old gentleman was found lying in the grass of the pasture where he fell, guarded by his faithful dog, which had remained by his dead master. The son was led to the body of his father by the actions of the faithful animal, whose barking and remaining at the spot had also attracted the attention of a neighbor. The dog had worn a path in the grass about the body in his efforts to guard it and to attract the notice of passers-by.—Capital.

Abstracts of title made promptly at reasonable rates. W. H. Swiggett.

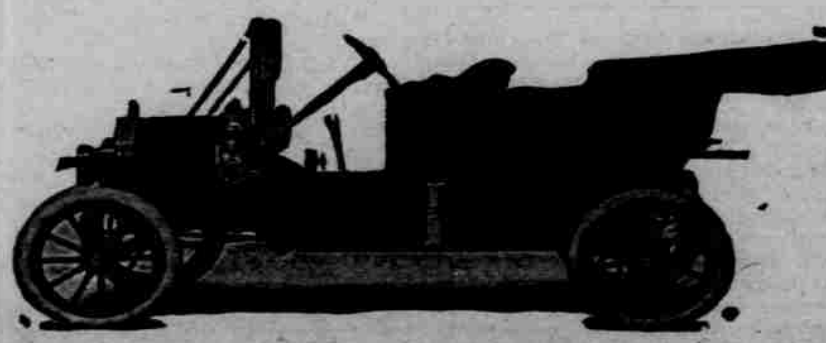
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